



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
100 North Senate Avenue
Room N758
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2216
(317) 232-5533 FAX: (317) 232-0238
An Equal Opportunity Employer • <http://www.in.gov/dot>

MITCHELL E. DANIELS, JR., Governor
THOMAS O. SHARP, Commissioner

Writer's Direct Line
(317) 232-8558

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 17, 2005

2005 BORMAN EXPRESSWAY (I-80/94) RECONSTRUCTION BEGINS MARCH 1

Work will focus on section between Cline Avenue and Broadway

LAKE COUNTY – The next phase of the Borman Expressway (I-80/94) reconstruction is scheduled to begin on March 1. This year's work will focus on the segment between Cline Avenue and Broadway (State Road 51) in Gary.

Crews from Gary-based Superior Construction will widen the highway to four lanes in each direction and rebuild the interchanges at Broadway, Grant and Burr. Workers will rebuild the roadway from the ground up, removing and replacing old pavement. They will be on-site 24-hours a day, seven days a week to complete this segment by December 15, 2005.

This is the third season of a multi-year, \$300 million project to rebuild the 13-mile expressway from the Indiana-Illinois state line to just east of the I-65 interchange. Carrying 160,000 vehicles per day, the Borman Expressway (I-80/94) in northwest Indiana is one of state's busiest highways.

Lane Restrictions & Ramp Closures

Every day, from 5 a.m. until 9 p.m., three lanes will be open in each direction to minimize delays. During the overnight hours, various lane restrictions will be necessary.

Ramps will close for up to two months as workers remove the old pavement, replace bad soil and construct longer, wider lanes. Once a ramp reopens, it should remain open for the duration of the project.

The first closure, (starting on March 1), will be the eastbound entrance and exit ramps at Broadway. The official detour route will be Grant Street to 15th Street to Broadway. Those ramps are expected to reopen in May.

The next closure, (May through June), will be the eastbound ramps at Grant Street. The official detour route will be Broadway to 15th Street to Grant. Additional ramp closures after June will be announced later this spring.

Construction Updates

Visit the Borman Expressway website www.borman.in.gov for daily updates. Motorists can register for free e-mail messages sent directly to their mailbox with updates about upcoming lane restrictions and ramp closures. The site also features live traffic cameras, downloadable maps and other helpful travel resources.

Drivers can also dial 877-HWY-WORK (877-499-9675) for daily construction updates. These messages will provide motorists with the latest ramp closures, detour routes and overnight lane restrictions.

-more-

The Finished Product

This is the first time the Borman Expressway has been fully reconstructed in its 50-year history. Originally designed for 60,000 vehicles per day, the highway currently handles more than 160,000 cars and trucks. Semi-trucks account for more than 40 percent of the traffic on this major east-west interstate which connects Chicagoland with the east and west coasts. When completed in 2009, the new roadway will handle the projected traffic volumes for the next 20 years.

The new Borman Expressway will feature:

- **Four lanes in each direction:** Note: The westbound fourth lane will be opened in conjunction with the completion of the Illinois Kingery Expressway in 2006. The fourth eastbound lane will be opened when the I-65 interchange reconstruction is finished in 2009.
- **New collector-distributor lanes:** Throughout the Burr, Grant and Broadway interchanges to allow vehicles to enter and exit without impeding traffic in the main travel lanes.
- **New interchange ramps:** The entrance and exit ramps at Burr, Grant and Broadway will be rebuilt to maximize traffic flow.
- **New sound barrier walls:** To mitigate noise for neighborhoods near the expressway.
- **New lighting systems:** For increased safety and visibility.
- **New drainage facilities:** To reduce and eliminate water ponding on the highway.

Additional Background

In 2004, the western half of the project, between Cline and Calumet Avenues, was totally rebuilt. In 2007, work will begin on reconfiguring the interchange at I-65. That project is expected to take three years to complete.

The Borman Expressway project is being done in conjunction with the Kingery Expressway and Illinois Tollway reconstruction in Illinois. For more information about those projects, visit their Web site at www.kingeryexpressway.com.